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A TRVE
RELATION
OF THEG ROVND

Occasion, and Circumstances, of that
horrible Murther committed by IOHN BARTRAM
Gent. vpon the body of Sir IOHN TYNDAL of *Lincolns*
Inne, Knight: One of the Masters of the Hono-
rable Court of *Chancery*, the twelfth day of this
instant *Novemb.* Written by way of
Letter from a Gentleman, to
his Country friend.

Together with the Examination of the said
Bartram, taken before the right Honourable, Sir
Fra Bacon Knight, his Maiesties Atturney Generall:
and Sir *Henry Yelnerton* Knight, his Maiesties Solliciter
General, according to speciall directions given by
his Maiestie in that behalfe.



At London Printed by Iohn Beale, 1616.



A
True Relation of
THE GROVND,
Occasion, and Circumstances, of
that horrible Murther committed by Iohn
BARTRAM, Gent. vpon the body of Sir
IOHN TYNDALL of *Lincolnes Inne* Knight,
One of the Masters of the Hon^{able} Court of
CHANCERY, the twelfth day of this
instant *November*.

SIR,



O streames run
swifter then the rumors
of vnhappy accidents;
though it oft falleth out
that the faster they run
the more troubled their
currents.
You cannot but haue
heard of the cruell mur-
der and massacre of Sir *Iohn Tyndall*, wrought by
the wicked and bloody hand of *Iohn Bartram*: But

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I feare that different humours in their relations haue set seuerall stamps vpon the fact: some fancying circumstances that fell not out; some knowing neither the number nor the truth of them; some neglecting to divulge the particulars; and some mistrusting errour in the report, are rather filled with wonder at the action then with hatred of it. You shall neereby in a short period haue the corne winnowed from the chaffe, and real truth brought you without either mixture or addition of fancy or falsehood: being drawne from them that best knew it, and had best cause to vnderstand it: wherein you shall see, how neglected sparkes lurking in a corrupt heart, will soone breake into flames of mischief.

One *Leonard Chamberlin*, about seven yeeres past dying without issue, and without Will, there was obtained for *Anne Chamberlin*, then an infant, his brothers daughter, by the practise and labour of *Sir Phillip Seudamore*, an administration of *Leonards* goods: This *Anne* was neither priue to it, nor had profit by it; but by this meanes the personall estate of *Leonard* fell into the fingers of *Sir Phillip*, who when hee had sifted the estate thoroughly, shifted himselfe out of the kingdome, and being ill affected to the Religion here, pretended to gaine the libertie of an euill conscience beyond the Seas, where hee died a Papist.

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

John Bartram hauing married the halfe sister of *Leonard*, in the behalfe of his wife obtaines a repeale of the Administration granted to *Anne*, and had it committed to his wife as of right it ought.

When he had thus gotten the Administration, he and his wife complaine in Chancery against *Anne Chamberlin*, that she might discouer the true estate of *Leonard* the Intestate, and haue the same by order of that Court set ouer to them.

Hereupon *Anne* maketh her answere vpon her Oath, but is able to discouer no particulars of the estate, neither in debts nor otherwise, for nothing came to her hands, but all was latched in the hands of *Sir Phillip Studamore* in pretence of her right, as Administratrix. But *Bartram* descending to proofes in this sute, had the precise testimony of two witnesses, that there was due to *Leonard Chamberlins* estate from one *Harris* vpon all bonds, accompts reckonings and specialties 200. pound.

The Cause coming to hearing, the Lord Chancellor in his Honorable Iustice minding that *Bartram* should haue from *Anne Chamberlin* so much of *Leonards* estate as was proued in Court (which was 200. pound) vpon all bonds and reckonings from *Harris* and no more: And so pronouncing his decree, by the error and slip of the Register it was set downe, and penned that a bond of 200. pound made by *Harris* to the Intestate should be by *Anne*

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deliuered to *Bartram* and his wife.

Bartram herein espying his aduantage, hotly pursues the decree to haue a particular bond of 200. pound brought in Court and deliuered: which when *Anne* examined thereupon, could not performe, excusing her selfe by Sir *Phillip Scudamores* catching into his hands of all the bonds and specialties due to *Leonard* the Intestate, shee was ordered by the Court to bring in the 200. pound, and to pay the same to *Bartram* and his wife; which shee did, and they had it.

When *Bartram* saw hee had caught the pray hee neuer hunted, and had the two hundred pound in his purse, as due vpon a particular bond, which was neither confessed by the party, nor proued by the witnesses; that this *Sent* might die, in his crafty couetousnesse hee would not too eagerly follow the Chase; but sleepe vpon this many moneths before, he sets his foot forward in this suit againe.

A yeere after hee renues his cry, and moues the Court: That because it stood proued that vpon diuers accompts, bonds, reckonings, and specialties, there was due from *Harris* to *Leonard* the Intestate the summe of two hundred pound; therefore desired, that *Anne* the defendant (at this time married to *Sir George Symons*) might bring those into the Court to be deliuered to him and his wife: which was granted by the Lord Chancelor accordingly, and a day
cer-

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

certaine giuen for performance thereof.

When *Bartram* saw the day past, and the Order not performed, hee eagerly sues forth vpon the defendant *Annes* contempt, the ordinary proces of the Court, till it came to proclamation of Rebellion: And though hee might haue seene himselfe checkt by the hand of God, in taking her to rest, who liued a restless life, by his disquieting her in sutes, yet doth he not desist, but seeing her closed vp in the earth, hunts her husband Sir *George Symons* till hee brings him to the bay, and then layes hold on him as for a contempt, in not bringing in his wife while shee liued, the Law supposing euery wife amenable at the will of her husband, and by order of the Court in the Iustice of it, gets him committed to the fleete, where he hath remained in the nature of a prisoner, from Hillary terme last, till the last day of this Michaelmas Terme.

Now Sir *George Symons* finding himselfe thus overlaid by his aduersary *Bartram*, and that his hawkes eye watcht now to make him his prey: petitioneth to the Lord *Chauunceller*, and humbly by way of motion also desireth, that the whole proceedings in the cause may be reuiued; the confession of the defendant *Anne* vpon her oath while shee liued may be considered, and the proofes compared, to see if any particular bond of two hundred pound, or if any double summe of two hundred

B

pound

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pound were proued ; inforcing, that *Bartram* had already in his purse as much as any way was warranted by prooffe.

The Lord *Chauncellor* somewhat compassionate herein, and as in all cases, so especially being tender to restraine the subiect of his libertie, vnlesse hee incurre some manifest contempt, was pleased hereupon to referre the same to Sir *Iohn Tyndall*, and Master Doctor *Amye*, two auncient Masters of the Court, that they should certifie to him the whole merits of the cause, yet kept himselfe euen in the course of Iustice, not enlarging Sir *George Symons*, vpon this suggestion, but allowing his liberty vpon Reconufance to appeare from day to day.

Hereupon *Bartram* according to the course of the Court, exhibited Interrogatories to Sir *George Symons*, touching the contempt by him & his wife; who vpon examination was found to be priuy, and acquainted with the processe that went forth against his wife, and thereby was in truth in a contempt for not bringing *her* into Court: But hee would not examine Sir *George* whether hee had any bills, accompts, reckonings, bonds, or specialties, due or belonging to *Leonard Chamberlins* estate, which when the two Masters of the Court perceiued, they asked him, why hee did not examine Sir *George* vpon that point: and hee answered, it was needlesse, for he thought in his conscience, and was perswaded

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

ded Sir George had none of them. Yet you see with what violence he both takes him, holds him, and keeps him.

Now when Sir *John Tyndall*, and Master Doctor *Amey*, had exactly with great paines, and with often search sought out, and found the true merits of this cause, they returned their report into the Court the fourth day of this present November, in these words.

That vpon due perusall and consideration both of *Answers, Confessions* and *proofes*, in the Cause they did find, there was but one two hundred pound in all due: But that vpon the eager pursuit of *Barram*, Sir *George Symons* had suffered long imprisonment; And they thought it time he were released, which notwithstanding they referred to the better iudgement of the Court.

In which report you may note three things.

First that the matter of it was iust.

Secondly that it had no bitterness in it, more then well became Iudges, who ought not to be inflexible when they find the Court had beene made an instrument of any mans causelesse suffering.

Thirdly, that it was not concluding or peremptory, but left the matter to the iudgement of the Court.

When this report was returned into Court, there was nothing suddenly done vpon it, but day was

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giuen to *Bartram* vntill Tuesday the twelfth of this Moneth, to shew cause, why Sir *George* should not be enlarged, and himselfe dismissed out of Court.

Now when *Bartram* saw this bitte put into his mouth, whereby his couetous desire was bridled, and his imaginary hopes lost, which was to haue another two hundred pound, to which hee had no colour of right; his heart begins to swell: And seeing this iust report as a shield to defend Sir *George Symons* from his pursuit, hee turnes his fury another way, and casts his resolution of Reuenge vpon Sir *John Tyndall*, whose person while he liued was,

- 1 Of great reputation for his integrity:
- 2 Of great respect for his temperance and moderation in the place he held:
- 3 Of good opinion for his learning and experience.
- 4 Much to bee reuerenced both for his birth, paines, and his age.

Yet neither his age, nor his paines, nor his innocency, nor his integritie, could bee any arguments for *Bartram* to spare him, or any buckler against his bloody violence.

Wherein you shall see what spurres the diuell sets to his heeles to hasten him to hell.

He before coucted but money, or bonds from Sir *George Symons*; now that sparke is quenched, a greater flame ariseth: nothing now will quench his thirst

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

thirst, but the bloud of Sir *John Tyndall*: See now the steps he seekes to tread, and you shall perceiue this action of his had,

1 Crafty preparation.

2 Wicked resolution.

3 Hellish execution.

1 He strips himselfe of his estate, and the eight day of this moneth hee makes a voluntary deed of gift of all his goods, to one Master *Drake*, with whom hee confessed hee had no acquaintance. When this deede came to sealing, hee would haue had the Scribe dated the same, as if it had beene made in *July* before, which he did of craft to defraud his Maiesty of the forfeiture of his goods, he knew would follow vpon the villany of his fact: but no importunitie could winne the Scribe to that dishonesty.

2 Being thus turned naked, hee now clad himselfe onely with malice, and opportunity to reuenge: and the tenth day which was Sunday, there is a noyse of bloud sounding in his head, and then as hee confessed before the Honourable Iudges of the Kings Bench, he resolved to kill Sir *John Tyndall*, as if hee should murmur to himselfe; Sir *John* hath bereaued me of my vniust hopes, therefore hee shall die an vniust death.

3 Becing setled in this mad resolution to shedde bloud, on the eleuenth of this moneth, the engine

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of death must be thought of. And that must be,

1 Not a sword: for his old withered hand could not weild it.

2 Not a dagger: for he could not be sure of his ayme, and by that hee might perhaps stab him, but not kill him.

3 But a Pistoll must bee the executioner. And why? first, it is easie to handle: secondly, it is shot off before it be seene: thirdly, it teares the body, and carries the life away with it.

The instrument of death being thus thought of, he scoureth his Pistol, layes his bullets ready, which as hee said, had lyen rusting by him sixe yeares before, and now must be icoured to act this tragedy.

On the twelfth of this Moneth, beeing the day when *Bartram* by his Counsell should shew cause to the Court why *Sir George* should not be enlarged, and himselfe dismissed, hee retained no other counsellor then the Deuill, who as you may feare by the sequell, (leauing secret things to God) had the Fee he euer seekes for, the soule of *Bartram* for the counsell giuen him.

Now this day, first hee bestirres him early to seeke out *Master Drake*, to whom hee had giuen his goods, carries his deede with him, carries by a Porter after him, his best go vne and best cloake, comes to *Master Drakes* house, deliueres him the deed and the goods brought by them (as he said) put him in posses

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

possession of all the rest. This done, hee staves not, but hastes againe to Westminster, where missing his opportunity to worke his reuenge, about eleuen of the clocke the same day, hee betakes him to a Skuller vpon the Thames, and in the way betweene Westminster and the Temple, he shootes of his Pistoll (as he said) to scoure it, hauing onely powder in it, which no sooner went off, but hee charged it againe with double bullet, and closely carrying it by his side, landed at the Temple staires, went vp to Lincolns Inne, awaited at the gate the alighting of Sir *John Tynall* from his Coach, met him going toward his Chamber, affronts him, complains his backe was broken by his Report, yet (as hee laide) moued Sir *John* the matter might bee put to Compromise, to which the Knight, nothing suspecting the traine laide for him, answered onely (as *Bartram* confessed) *What a Compromise now?*

Hereupon, as Sir *John* was entering into his Chamber, this man posselt with a murderous Deuil, taking that answer of Sir *John* as a scorne, discharged his Pistoll vpon him, not before him, but behinde him, shot him through, so as instantly he fell downe, and with a groane only ended his life.

Company soone came in, but Sir *John Tindalls* man stricken into a maze, was not able at first eyther with his hand to lay hold on the offender, or by his speech to discover him: for *Bartram* had cast the
Pistoll

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Pistoll from him, yet he hasted not away but stood still, no stranger comming in suspecting him, his hoary haire carried so graue a shew.

But after a little paule, Sir *Johns* man gaining his spirits againe, and *Bartram* seeing hee could not bee hid, reuealed himselfe, and withall stabd himselfe with a pocket dagger, but the vigilant eye of Sir *Peter Hayman* instantly taking hold of his arme, so dulled the stroake, as that the hurt was not great, which this wretch perceiving, with his left arme drew forth a knife, (having prepared also a double weapon of death for himselfe) and offered again to destroy himselfe, but was likewise preuented.

Now alas Sir, you see there was in truth no words of propocation in the answer of Sir *John*, and who knew his countenance must say, it was ever milde and pleasing, not lofty nor sower. But malice that carries a man out of himselfe, makes euery object seeme vglye, and euery word sound harsh, more speedily to thrust on reuenge. Howbeit in the action it selfe, you may obserue many things which might haue made *Bartram* hatefull to himselfe, and which will still keep him liuing as a Monster of men, and as a scorne to posterity. For you see,

1 The ground of his Malice was vniust: stirred vp by a iust report, as hath beene shewed before.

2 If offence had beene in the Report, hee should not haue beene his owne Reuenger, but haue sought redresse

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

redresse at a higher hand: the Lord Chancellor being neuer deafe to any iust complaint.

3 He wreakes his Malice before the Report did hurt him: for it was not then decreed.

4 Fourthly, he did it suddenly and vn suspected, vnder a shew of treaty and conference.

5 He did it trecherously and cruelly, discharging it behind his backe.

6 Age assaulted age, which is not vsuall, each of them being 75. yeeres old at least.

7 Obserue the place: It was in an Honorable and ciuill society, where euery man there, thinkes himselfe within his Castell.

8 It was done not with a single, but with a double bullet; as if hee had thought his flesh to haue beene of steele; or as if his malice meant not onely to murder him, but to mangle him.

9 In this desperate fury, his malice turned her edge vpon himselfe, and he sought to haue beene his owne Butcher, but that his Master the Diuell (*mercy not Internenient*) reserued him as for the place of *Indas*, so for the end of *Indas* to be his owne hangman.

10 Which is most remarkeable herein, he made a duellum and assault not onely vpon a iust man, but euen vpon *Iustice it selfe*, which the Diuel could not vaunt of in many Ages before, and which is very fearefull in example: For all the Iudges of the land, yea, all the Noble Counsellors of State, if
C they

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they consult but with their owne humane weaknesse, may in feare, of that man values most, which is his life, let fall and vnloose their courage in doing Iustice, least he that thinkes himselfe wrongd, prepare the like Repast for them, which *Bartram* heere did for Sir *John Tyndall*.

Howbeit I hope such feares shall vanish, for sure God who is the preserver of men, will not suffer Iustice which is the bond of mans societie to bee broken, but though by this execrable Action one linke bee fallen, yet the chaine is whole, and hee will still increase it both in strength and beantie.

Againe, forbear to censure the manner of Sir *John Tyndalls* death: speed of death is not alway a Iudgement, nor the suddennesse of it suspicious, where it findes a man in the way of Righteousnes: but argues anger, when it takes a man in an act of sinne.

Sir *John Tyndall*, was at this time walking in his Calling appointed by God; and *Bartram* in his Calling appointed by the Diuell. Heere what *Salomon* sayes, and it will both stay your heart, and set strait your iudgement, *Eccles. 7. 17. There is a iust man that perisheth in his iustice, and there is a wicked man that continueth long in his malice*: And though his reckoning be not yet, yet stripes and plagues do wait vpon his account.

You see and may perswade your selfe, that Sir
John

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

John, paying that debt to God, which was due to Nature, and being by a malicious hand offered up as a sacrifice, both for his Iustice, and in his Iustice, had the Angels his attendants to carry him to heaven, for there is rest to the children of God. And as for *Bartram*, (though it be safest to leaue his iudgement to God; yet if the tree be iudged by the fruit, it being both corrupt and rotten, we may say it was neere to burning.

But I will returne to *Bartram* liuing: This detestable murther was presently spread abroad; and at the first it was as strangely voyced as committed: For some taking holde no doubt of the obstinate carriage of *Bartram* without remorse; and interpreting the Induration of his heart to proceed from some great Iniustice done him by Sir *John Tyndall*: blazed it abroad as if hee had beene but a kinde of scourge of God vpon an vnrighteous Iudge: and that though he was not to bee Iustified in the *Fact*, yet he was to be pittied in his *wrong*: So as that Spirit, which was first a spirit of Malice in the heart of *Bartram*, turnd it selfe into the spirit of Errour in the mouthes of men.

But the first thing that was done in proceeding against this foule Murder, was, that the Iudges of the Kings Bench tooke examination of the fact: And being doubtfull that his hurts were dangerous, and desirous that an exemplar Iustice should not by ac-

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cident be prevented, gave order he should be speedily indicted and arraigned. Maister *Attorney Generall* also having a care that a cause of so great consequence that might aswell strike feare into the best Iudges, as forewarne the corrupt (nay might concerne any man that hath in any place or office but the power to discontent, so that no man can tel who shall suffer, and who shall looke on) should not passe in any obscure and ordinary manner, sent for Maister *Solicitor*, and desired him that he would be provided to make some declaration, such as the cause required for the honour of Iustice, and for a note of distinction betweene so rare a cause and ordinarie matters of the Crowne.

Maister *Attorney* conceiving at that time that the fact being so notorious and confessed vpon examination, *Bartram* would not haue pleaded *not Guiltie*: but it fell so out, that hee confessed not the Inditement but pleaded *not Guiltie*: whereupon the Iurie being not then ready at the Barre, further day was giuen for his triall.

In the meane time, his Maiesty hearing of this strange accident (as his manner is) was desirous to penetrate into the roote and Center of this mans malice and fact: and in his Princely wisdom, considering that this cruell murther must either spring from the instigation of others, or from *Bartram* himselfe. And if from *Bartram*, it must proceed either

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

ther from an inueterate habite of a desperate and wicked life : or for some vnſufferable wrong that Sir *John Tyndall* had done him, ſignified his pleaſure by the Lord *Chamberlin* vnto Maſter *Attorney*; That there ſhould be ſome ſtay of the publicke proceeding, vntill *Bartram* were farther examined, and directed the Examination to bee vpon three heads: Firſt, touching the Incitation: Secondly, touching *Bartrams* courſe of life and Religion: and laſtly touching the Juſtneſſe or Iniquity of Sir *John Tyndals* report.

Whereupon Maſter Attorney calling Maſter Sollicitor to aſſiſt him, took the examination, whereof I ſend you a coppy, hauing obtained leaue of his Honor ſo to doe.

In which examination it plainely appeares, that the Diuell needed no Broker, but wrought immediately ypon the malice of the man, whoſe courſe and conuerſation of life was alwayes diſordered, and not without touch of *Papiſh Religion*; though it ſeemeth to be true that hee was a kind of Church-walker in Weſtminſter, and came diuers times to heare either the ſeruice or the muſicke.

But for Sir *John Tyndall*, he doth ſufficiently cleer him from bribery, either from being corrupted by his aduerſary, or tempted by himſelfe, and in the merits of the cauſe hee had ſcarce a word in his mouth to impeach the report (as you may well perceiue, if
you

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you compare his examination with the former relation of this businesse) in so much as both at that time hee did confesse, that it was one of the foulest murders that euer was committed.

And after hee said to his vnder keeper, that the Kings Counsell (who had vsed him with much compassion towards his age and hurt) had cut sore into the businesse, as finding (belike) at that time some compunction, though it after vanished as the morning cloud.

For notwithstanding the Lord Chancellor had in great wisdom giuen especiall charge and direction that care should be had of this man, as well for his body, as for his soule: For his body in 2. kindes, that his hurts should bee looked to, and that hee should be kept from doing himselfe mischiefe, hauing once attempted it. And for his soule, that hee might haue some godly Preacher to bring him to the sence of his sinne (which is not so well discerned in the commitment of it, as in the punishment of it) and to saue him from impenitency: yet so was Gods will, that in the end he destroyed himselfe: but yet in that forme of execution which the Law and Iustice had prescribed, and not by any other death, as he had formerly sought to effect.

For on the seauenteenth day of this moneth, being *Sunday* in the morning, this man tooke occasion to send away his keeper to fetch him a Bible for his
com-

of Sir JOHN TYNDALL.

comfort, requiring that it might bee a latine Bible, and with a Concordance (thinking belike that such a Bible was not so easie to be had) but there being one found in the house, and his keeper bringing it sooner then he expected, hee sent him againe for an *English Bible*, and that also being quickly returned vnto him, he said he was not satisfied with the translation, and desired another Translation, which hee thought was harder to get: and the better to winne time, told his keeper likewise that his stomacke was empty, and therefore desired him to bring with him also some Ale, with a toste: and in the meane time by a rope that he had gotten tied vnto a Tenter hooke, that was fastened aboue the window to hang a hat on, hee hanged himselfe, his legges almost trayling on the ground. The continuance of which desperate resolution to make away himselfe, the reason may bee gathered vpon some speech he let fall at severall times as I haue heard, that hee would bee sorry to bee hanged in chaines: so that hee that had no sence of preserving his life and soule, yet had apprehension and care of his sencelesse Carcase.

And so you haue here an end of this *Tragedie*, not presuming to giue any iudgement, either of the furious passions of these times, or of the dangers of Authoritie, or of the errors of Rumor, nor to make any interpretation of the fact, or the circumstances there-

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thereof, but by this plaine declaration which I here send you, leave the same to your meditations, who I am sure desires to know the truth herein, and who have more leisure and will enter into them more sincerely (perhaps) then we do here in London.

Your assured Friend,

N. J.



The Examination
of *John Bartram*, taken this 16.
day of Nouember, 1616. before Sir *Fran-*
cis Bacon his Maiesties Atturney Generall,
and Sir *Henry Yeluerton*, his Maiesties
Solicitor Generall.



LONDON,
Printed by *Iohn Beale*. 1616.



John Bartram,



*Being asked whither
after his discontentment at the
Report of Sir Io:
Tindall and Do-
ctor Amy, hee did
not vse any words or speeches to his At-
turney, or any private friend, whereby
hee threatned the reuenge vpon Sir Io:
Tindall, he protesteth that as he desi-*

John Battams

reth comfort at his resurrection, he did neuer use any such speeches to any person.

Being asked touching his Religion, he saith he is no Papist, nor euer was, but saith that hee was about 20. yeares since indicted in the Kings bench by malice for Recusancie, to which hee then pleaded his conformity, and was discharged thereby.

Being asked whether euer hee gaue or promised to giue to Sir Io: Tindall any moneys, reward, or gratuity in this Cause, he denyeth that euer he gaue a-nie, or had at any time any speech with him tending to any such purpose.

Being asked whether hee had any knowledge that Sir John Tindall, or
Doctor

Examination.

Doctor Amy were corrupted or bribed by his aduersary to make the last Report, saith that hee doth not know it.

Being asked (the state of the question being whether there were any particular bond or debt of 200. pound betweene Harris and Chamberlin, besides debts upon Accompt, and vppon specialtie amounting to that sum) whether hee knew of any such particular bond or not; he saith hee neuer saw any such bond, nor knoweth it otherwise then by the recitall thereof made in the decree, and some Orders made in that Cause, and in a crosse bill wherein (as he conceiueth) there is mention therof.

Being asked, whether hee be penitent for his Fact, saith, that hee taketh

it

John Bartrams

it to bee as foule a murder as euer was
committed, and if he hath uttered any
speeches to the contrary he is very sory
for it.

John Bartram.

Examinatur coram

Era: Bacon.

Hen: Yelverton.



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